February 18, 2016

To: County Extension Agents - Staff Chair  
Shooting Sports County Agents and Volunteers

From: Rex Roberg, State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator

Registration: 4-H Online Registration is open February 28 through April 4.

The Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Program is adding Hunting Skills to the list of 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines in which we will be training instructors. This means that in order for a club to field a team in the Hunting Skills competition, they must have a trained instructor, just like any of the shooting disciplines, i.e. shotgun, archery, etc.

Our first-ever 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting Skills Discipline Instructor Training and Certification Workshop will be conducted April 15-16 at the 4-H Center. All registration for this training workshop must be done via 4-H Online. 4-H Online Registration will be open February 28 through April 4. In order to register, you must first be certified in your county as a 4-H Volunteer Leader. If you haven’t already done this, I strongly recommend you get started with this process immediately! Contact your county office for instructions on how to proceed.

Once you have completed the county requirements, you will need to register for the April 2016 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting Skills Instructor Training on 4-H Online. Your county office can assist you if you need help.

Please save this letter as a document and print, copy and distribute to interested parties. The date of the next Hunting Skills instructor training will be determined by demand, likely sometime in 2017.

The 4-H Hunting Skills Discipline covers a unique set of challenges and considerations when teaching hunting wildlife and outdoor skills to 4-Hers. Firearm safety, getting lost, falling injuries, fire, knives, wild animals, hypothermia, blisters, and fatigue are several safety concerns related to hunting which are taught. Instructors of the Hunting Discipline teach from information based on science, research and unbiased knowledge, not folklore, tradition or old-fashioned hunches.

The 4-H Hunting Discipline encompasses a very broad base of hunting, wildlife and outdoor skills. From calling, stalking, tracking and hiding from prey to the identification, management and conservation of wildlife and their habitat, this discipline has it all. The Hunting Discipline also encompasses learning outdoor cooking, camping and the history of hunting. The Hunting Discipline provides a plethora of educational possibilities above and beyond preparation for competitions in 4-H Hunting Skills. Although becoming certified as a 4-H Hunting Instructor does not certify the individual to teach any of the shooting disciplines, the 4-H Hunting Discipline will provide countless opportunities to actively engage youth in learning life skills while creating a lifelong love for the outdoors.

Hunting Skills competition will be separate from State Range Events, and will be held on a different date.  
The first Hunting Skills State Competition will be held February 24-25, 2017. Ten percent of a Hunting Skills participant’s score will come from their combined rifle, shotgun, and archery scores from the previous State Range Events. The remaining 90% will come from their scores on the various non-shooting events at the Hunting Skills State Competition.

This Registration Info Packet will also be available soon on the Web at: http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/shooting-sports.aspx

cc: Dr. Tony Windham       Noah Washburn
    Dr. Anne Sortor       District Directors
4-H Shooting Sports Hunting Skills Instructor Training: April 15-16, 2016

State 4-H Instructor Certification will be offered in the 4-H Hunting Skills, a discipline included in 4-H Shooting Sports. Participants will be able to obtain certification in this discipline as a Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor.

Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting Skills Instructor Training: This two day course emphasizes youth education and development, instruction, and includes the following topics:

- Firearm Safety
- History of Hunting / Why we hunt
- Hunting Ethics/Regulations or Laws
- Hunting Dilemmas
- Hunter Ethics Trail
- Stages of Hunting
- Planning a Hunt
- Equipment/Clothing/Survival (Food, Water, Shelter) / First aid
- Safety (geographically specific-i.e. hypothermia, tree stand safety, blaze orange)
- Firearm Safety and the Hunter
- Wildlife Calling
- Recovering Game and Blood Trail
- Stalking and Scent Game
- Outdoor cooking
- Wild game foods
- and more!

Anyone who wishes to coordinate and/or instruct youth in any 4-H shooting sports club, at local practices or for competition at any county or state level activity, event, or program, is required to receive certification as a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor in the appropriate discipline.

Eligible youth may enroll in a shooting discipline course as a Teen Leader. To qualify for Teen Leader training, a youth must be at least 16 yrs. old and have been an active participant in a county 4-H Shooting Sports Club for at least one year. A youth participant will receive Teen Leader certification in Hunting Skills. Teen Leaders will be qualified to train county youth in their discipline under supervision of a certified adult instructor.

The AGFC Hunter Education Instructor course will be offered on Friday (April 15) evening (7:00). This course is optional (and free).

You will need to have already taken the AGFC Hunter Education student course to be eligible for the Hunter Ed. Instructor Training. The application for the Hunter Ed. Instructor Course is in this packet, and must be emailed or faxed to my office by April 1 if you plan on taking the course.

What to bring to Hunting Skills Instructor Training: All you need to bring is note-taking materials. You’ll be outside a considerable amount of time, so wear appropriate clothing. Do not bring any firearms, ammunition, or bows & arrows.

Cost:

- 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting Skills Instructor Training
  - Friday lodging, all meals: $60.............1 night lodging, 3 meals, & materials
  - No lodging, meals only: $45.............3 meals and materials
  - No meals or lodging: $20.............. materials only

All fees will be paid to your county office, and each county will send a single check to the 4-H Shooting Sports Program, made out to UACES. Contact me at 501-671-2334 or rroberg@uaex.edu with any questions.

Those attending Shooting Sports Instructor workshops will be required to work with youth in their county 4-H Shooting Sports Club, and/or assist in event leadership in their discipline at the State Competitions in accordance with Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Policy. Please keep the tentative Agenda that is found in this packet. It lists all pertinent times for arrival, courses, departure, etc. It may be the only schedule you will receive prior to arrival at the 4-H Center.
TENTATIVE AGENDA
Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting Skills
Instructor Certification Workshop
April 15-16, 2016

Tentative Schedule for 4-H Hunting Skills Training April 15 and 16, 2016

Friday, April 15:

12:30 – 1:30 pm  Registration/Check-in (Main Building Lobby)
1:45 – 2:00 pm  Course Overview (Cabe Hall)
2:00 – 6:00 pm  Hunting Skills Discipline training (Cabe Hall)
6 pm – 7 pm  Supper (Dining Hall)
7 pm – 10 pm  AGFC Hunter Education Instructor Course (Cabe Hall)

Saturday, April 16:

7:30 – 8:15 am  Breakfast (Dining Hall)
8:30 am – Noon  Hunting Skills Discipline training (Cabe Hall)
Noon – 12:45 pm  Lunch (Dining Hall)
1:00 – 5:00 pm  Hunting Skills Discipline training and Test (Cabe Hall)
NAME: _________________________________  BIRTHDATE: __________________

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: ___________ - ___________ - ___________

RACE: (Circle One) WHITE    AFRICAN AMERICAN    NATIVE AMERICAN    SPANISH    ORIENTAL
SEX:         M         F

HOME ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________

CITY: ___________________________ COUNTY: ___________________________ ZIP CODE: ______

HOME TELEPHONE: ___________________________ WORK TELEPHONE: __________________

Occupation: ________________________________________________________________

Teacher, Name of School: ________________________________________________________

Your Highest Educational Level (Please circle last year completed):  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8 / High School 9 10 11 12 / College 1 2 3 4 / Graduate 1 2 3 4

Previous Volunteer Experience: ____________________________________________________

Date Completed Hunter Education Student Course: ________________________________

Have you ever been a Hunter Education Instructor?  Yes or No

List any special skills, training, or interest which you have that may help you as a Hunter Education Instructor:

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

What Hunting or Shooting Experience do you have? ________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Have you ever been convicted of a Game and Fish Violation? YES or NO

If the answer is YES, what was the violation and when did it happen? ____________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Why do you want to be a Hunter Education Instructor? ______________________________

In case of emergency, notify (Name): _____________________________________________

Relationship of Above: ___________________________________ Telephone: ______________

Name of your Physician: ___________________________________ Telephone: ______________
INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS

To be certified as an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Hunter Education Instructor, you must:

(a) be at least 28 years of age. Junior Instructors (18-27 years of age) must be accompanied by a senior instructor while teaching.

(b) have successfully completed the basic student Arkansas Hunter Education Course.

(c) complete the “Instructor Application” form.

(d) not have been convicted of a violation of a game and fish regulation. If the applicant has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of a violation, a personal letter explaining the purpose of becoming a Hunter Education Instructor must be submitted along with one personal reference.

(e) be approved by the local Wildlife Officer, Regional Education Coordinator and Hunter Education Coordinator.

A Hunter Education Instructor can be dismissed and have instructor certification revoked if the instructor:

(a) fails to participate in at least one Hunter Education activity per year.

(b) is convicted of a violation of a game and fish regulation.

(c) falsifies information.

(d) fails to exhibit proper sportsmanship or ethical conduct.

(e) is so recommended by the local Wildlife Officer and/or the Regional Training Officer.

A Hunter Education Instructor who has had his or her certification revoked may submit a written request for reinstatement to the Hunter Education Coordinator. Each case will be investigated and/or reviewed on an individual basis. The Regional Education Coordinator serving the instructor’s area, the arresting officer, and other Agency personnel involved in the situation will have input; however, the final decision for reinstatement will the that of the Hunter Education Coordinator.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission receives federal aid funding in fish and wildlife restoration programs. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the US Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or desire further information, please write: Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, ATTN: Compliance Officer, #2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205 or The Office for Human Resources, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington DC 27240.